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Operational activities for development

Advancement of women

Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984.

* A/56/50.
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Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on its activities in 2000

1. The present report provides a review and update on the programme and activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for the year 2000. UNIFEM and its partners had a unique opportunity to review progress towards gender equality through involvement in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (New York, June 2000) held to assess progress made since the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). UNIFEM produced *Progress of the World's Women 2000*, a new biennial report to support the review process.

2. In November 2000, during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the President of the Assembly appointed a new Consultative Committee for UNIFEM, with Jamaica as the new Chair. Other members of the Committee include Croatia (representing the region of Central and Eastern Europe/ Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS)); Namibia (representing Africa); Kazakhstan (representing the Asia/Pacific region) and the Netherlands (representing Europe).

3. In 2000, UNIFEM's work on peace produced momentum in the context of its work to introduce the issue of women and peace and security onto the agenda of the Security Council. The Fund was active in providing support to the Government of Namibia during its presidency of the Council in preparing an open debate on the issue, preceded by a non-governmental organization briefing under the Arria Formula, which culminated in the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. The UNIFEM Consultative Committee noted that UNIFEM's contribution to the open debate exemplified its potential to link its operational experience to the normative arena and provide substantive guidance to policy formulation. Noting General Assembly resolution 54/136 in which the Assembly calls upon the Fund to strengthen its work, the Committee encouraged UNIFEM to contribute actively to the follow-up implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

4. In October 2000 pursuant to the recommendation of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee and with the endorsement of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund Executive Board, in decision 2000/7, UNIFEM and UNDP signed an agreement allowing UNIFEM to execute projects or programmes in its areas of comparative advantage on UNDP's behalf. The agreement opens up new modalities for cooperation and supports the continuing efforts to strengthen the synergy and further clarify the relationship between the two organizations. It builds upon experiences that UNIFEM has had in executing projects for other United Nations agencies, including UNFPA. In light of the new agreement and of significant changes that have taken place in UNIFEM over the past five years, including the doubling of its resource base, the shift to results-based management, and the adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions calling upon the Fund to strengthen its work in priority areas, in 2000 UNIFEM conducted a review of its structures and systems so as to ensure that they will continue to deliver programme of high quality. In 2001 UNIFEM will be working to implement the outcome of the review with a view towards further streamlining and increasing the effectiveness of its operational units.

I. Programme

A. Overview

5. UNIFEM continues to be guided by its 1984 mandate (General Assembly resolution 39/125):

(a) To support innovative and experimental activities benefiting women, in line with national and regional priorities;

(b) To serve as a catalyst, with the goal of ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities;

(c) To play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations system of development cooperation.

6. In line with paragraph 335 of the Beijing Platform for Action, UNIFEM programmes focus on women's economic and political empowerment and on advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment through multilateral policy dialogue. UNIFEM is engaged in providing strategic and focused response to the follow-up and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action through technical support

at the national level through the resident coordinator system.

7. Throughout 2000, UNIFEM was actively involved in global, national and regional preparations for the twenty-third General Assembly special session, entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century" (Beijing+5). The outcome document from the session is being used as a guide in new and emerging areas of concern, including gender-based violence, the spread of HIV/AIDS, economic globalization and new information/communication technologies for UNIFEM's current and future programming work.

8. UNIFEM's programme is designed and guided by an empowerment framework, based on promoting women's rights, opportunities and capacities. Within the framework UNIFEM focuses on three areas of immediate concern: strengthening women's economic capacity as entrepreneurs and producers, especially in the context of the new trade agenda and the emergence of new technologies; engendering governance and leadership that increase women's participation in the decision-making processes that shape their lives; promoting women's human rights to eliminate all forms of violence against women and transform development into a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable process.

9. UNIFEM is implementing the empowerment framework through five core strategies that build on the Fund's comparative advantages: building the capacity and leadership of women's organizations and networks; leveraging political and financial support for women from a range of stakeholders in the development process; forging new synergies and effective partnerships between women's organizations, Governments, the United Nations system and the private sector; undertaking pilot and demonstration projects to test innovative approaches to women's empowerment; and building an operational knowledge base to influence mainstreaming.

10. UNIFEM is a learning and advocacy organization fostering networks and linkages that contribute to women's empowerment, policy reform and gender-sensitive development. UNIFEM is dedicated to building stronger women's organizations and networks so that women themselves have the power to negotiate new and better policies with their Governments and international agencies.

B. Strengthening women's economic security and rights

11. Trade liberalization and rapid advances in information and communication technologies are swiftly changing the rules of the international marketplace. Women in developed and developing nations are experiencing new economic opportunities and challenges, caused in part by foreign competition, national debt, the exportation of jobs, and the erosion of workers' rights. In this complex environment, UNIFEM has been working to engage more women in the globalization process by supporting innovative programmes that highlight the risks, rights and opportunities inherent in global and regional business arenas.

12. UNIFEM's efforts to support women's economic security and rights in the year 2000 focused on the key areas discussed below.

1. Strengthening women's bargaining power to achieve sustainable livelihoods

13. Building women's capacity to access and shape markets is a key component of UNIFEM's economic empowerment work. UNIFEM support provides women with opportunities to hone technical and marketing skills, strengthen negotiation and bargaining tactics, foster their access to and influence over new technologies, build networks and business associations, and identify new market options. Experiences gained through pilot initiatives are used to inform policy and practice of larger agencies and mainstream institutions.

14. Realizing that knowledge of market changes is critical to women's ability to take advantage of new opportunities, UNIFEM supports market analyses that map opportunities in diverse subsectors. UNIFEM-supported situational analyses have been completed for the tourism industry in Jordan, hand-loomed textile businesses in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the production of masi in Fiji, and the gum karaya industry in India. The findings will serve as a first step in identifying products and services women can produce to ensure a strong position in the marketplace. In Burkina Faso, rural women cultivating and processing the valuable emollient shea butter are also making direct and competitive links to global markets. During the past two years, UNIFEM's partnership with the French skin-care company L'Occitane has enabled

hundreds of women to double their earnings while improving their sales, negotiations and technical skills.

15. Information communication technologies (ICTs) are rapidly becoming an essential vehicle for reaching markets, and UNIFEM is expanding its support to increase women's access to these new business tools. In Ecuador, Albania, Romania, Nepal and the Philippines, a joint project between UNIFEM and the Italian-based Development Network and Technology and Information Promotion System (DEVNET/TIPS) initiative helped small and medium-sized businesses owned by women to improve their information technology skills for e-commerce. Six hundred and fifty women and 60 women's associations benefited from training, which is currently slated for replication and expansion to Zimbabwe and China.

16. UNIFEM supports ongoing efforts to create sound management and business development tools for non-governmental organizations. UNIFEM's involvement in restructuring the Nicaraguan organization Cenzontle led to the approval of a new organizational strategic plan extending through 2004. The plan calls for the creation of the Foundation for the Development of Women (FODEM), an autonomous financial institution that is the outgrowth of prior credit programmes. UNIFEM support has increased Cenzontle's institutional and networking capacity, and strengthened women-owned small businesses demonstrating strong economic growth and potential for longer term sustainability.

2. Promoting legal and regulatory reform to enable women's equal ownership and access to economic resources and assets

17. Through its pilot projects, the generation of sex-disaggregated data, and ongoing scanning of the environment, UNIFEM identifies the kinds of laws, policies and regulations that promote or impede women's abilities and rights to secure sustainable livelihoods. In 2000, this included opportunities to make a strong connection between policy-making at the intergovernmental level and key issues for women in countries worldwide.

18. In March 2000, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal right to own property and acquire housing. Introduced by the Committee on Housing Rights and Evictions — a UNIFEM grantee — the resolution was a milestone in recognizing the gender dimensions of economic, social and cultural rights, drawing connections between women's rights to own land and property and their rights to housing and inheritance.

19. UNIFEM has worked in close cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), devoting considerable effort to institutionalizing gender statistics in the Asia/Pacific countries. Sex-disaggregated data are now routinely published in booklet form by the national statistics offices in India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Now in their third reprinting, the statistics booklets are widely used by policy analysts, policy makers and development programmers and researchers.

20. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Gender Statistics Project was developed to strengthen national capacities in the production and use of gender statistics and to develop a larger volume of gender-sensitive projects. One outcome in 2000 was the publication of a series of statistical reports, *Man/Woman: A Statistical Portrait*, which highlighted gender gaps in human development indicators. The reports were distributed throughout 13 Arab countries. The project helped to sensitize statisticians to gender needs and the value of sex-disaggregated data, survey design and censuses.

3. Engendering macroeconomic frameworks and building the capacity of countries to manage globalization and economic transitions from the perspective of poor women

21. UNIFEM devotes special attention to analysing trade regimes, and identifying successful strategies for engendering trade agreements that can expand women's economic opportunities. In 2000, UNIFEM's advocacy efforts helped establish gender advisory structures and brought representatives from women's groups into trade negotiations.

22. As part of its activities to bring women into debates on trade and finance, UNIFEM and the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) produced information kits last year for governmental officials and regional negotiating parties about the impact of trade agreements on women. In the Asia/Pacific region, UNIFEM continued its participation in and support for the annual meetings of the Women Leaders' Network (WLN) of the Asia

Pacific Economic Cooperation group (APEC). One result of the work of the WLN meetings over recent years was the endorsement by the 1999 APEC Leaders' Meeting in New Zealand of a framework for integration of women in APEC. The framework was developed by an APEC working group and launched in 2000 to facilitate gender mainstreaming into all APEC forums and programmes.

23. Regional economic institutions have been a key focus of UNIFEM's efforts and support for engendering macroeconomic frameworks. A Women's Desk, established in the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and supported by UNIFEM, has begun the process of mainstreaming gender into IGAD's policy and planning processes. At the Eighth Heads of State Summit (Sudan, November 2000), a resolution on mainstreaming gender into all IGAD policies and programmes was included in the official Khartoum Declaration.

24. In Latin America's Southern Cone, UNIFEM's work within the framework of the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR) Trade Treaty continued to yield positive results. A consultative process has fortified relationships between various national women's machineries, experts, and local authorities, among others, and enabled women workers' issues to be included in the MERCOSUR Social Charter.

C. Governance, peace and security

25. UNIFEM's support for women's leadership in governance in 2000 focused on three key areas: peace and security, by providing assistance to women in conflict situations and supporting their participation in peace processes; gender justice, by strengthening the gender focus in electoral, constitutional, legal and judicial processes; and economic governance, by bringing a gender analysis to economic policies and by linking them to the distribution, use and generation of public resources.

1. Providing assistance to women in conflict situations and supporting their participation in peace processes

26. UNIFEM's support for peace-building is a central aspect of its governance work, and peace and security initiatives were given high priority in 2000. UNIFEM supported women's participation in peace and reconstruction processes in Burundi and Somalia, brought gender perspectives to protection and assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons, and supported gender justice initiatives in post-conflict peace-building in East Timor. UNIFEM is using its operational experience in conflict and post-conflict countries to inform policy-making in regional and global arenas, including the Security Council.

27. Working on the peace front in Somalia since 1993, UNIFEM celebrated a major victory with Somali women in 2000 who won the right to negotiate with warlords and other political parties and acquired 27 seats in parliament. The restored Government developed a women's agenda which includes women's representation as full and equal partners in the government.

28. Through a joint Palestinian/Israeli project sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNIFEM's Executive Director led an international delegation to Jerusalem in June 2000. Facilitating dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli women engaged in efforts to engender the Middle East peace process, the mission resulted in the adoption of a women's peace agenda, accepted by both sides.

29. Facilitating dialogue and the exchange of experiences across regions is a key strategy in peace-building. In 2000, UNIFEM brought women's experience in influencing reconstruction in Guatemala and Uganda to peace negotiations in Burundi.

30. In Burundi, women's participation in the peace process was enhanced when the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, under whose auspices the peace talks took place, invited UNIFEM to brief the negotiating parties and facilitation team on gender issues relating to the peace accord. With support from the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Public Information, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat, UNIFEM convened the first All Party Burundi Women's Peace Conference, with more than 50 Burundian women presenting a common vision for peace and reconciliation. In an historic move, 23 of the Burundi women's recommendations made to the facilitator of the peace process, former South African President Nelson Mandela, were included in the final peace accord, making it one of the strongest in recognizing the centrality of women's rights and opportunities to

democracy, governance, peace security, and reconstruction.

2. Strengthening the gender focus in electoral, constitutional, legal and judicial processes

31. Using the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a guiding source of operative principles, UNIFEM seeks to strengthen the gender focus in electoral, constitutional, legal and judicial frameworks, while supporting women's capacity at the national level for their implementation.

32. Engaging women in the political process, both as candidates and voters, continues to be a high priority for UNIFEM programmes worldwide. Last year UNIFEM support to women's participation in the electoral system included candidates for public office in Fiji, the former Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Ecuador, the Pacific region and Brazil. UNIFEM-supported training in India, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Guatemala was successful in sensitizing members of various judicial and law enforcement agencies to gender issues. Concentrated efforts in those countries led to the development of gender-sensitive legislation, including positive action and equality bills.

33. Working to strengthen the capacity of the East Timor Women's Network (ETWN), UNIFEM is supporting women's leadership in peace-building and gender justice, focusing on efforts to increase women's participation in elections scheduled for August 2001 and early 2002.

3. Supporting leadership development for women parliamentarians and women's organizations

34. Throughout 2000 UNIFEM sought to strengthen linkages between women's machinery, women parliamentarians, and women's civil society organizations. Through training, regional exchanges, and support for constituency-building, synergy has been created across those three sectors on issues ranging from national development plans to decentralization. In Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Rwanda, and eastern and southern Africa, UNIFEM supported capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes for public servants, including parliamentarians, police and judiciary. UNIFEM also lent support to build the capacity of women's machinery in Mexico, Gaza, Lebanon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Eritrea, Angola, and Mozambique.

35. The Women Parliamentarians Conference, held last year in Bangkok, with UNIFEM support, brought together 65 women parliamentarians from the South Asian and South-East Asian regions. Discussing globalization and armed conflict within a conceptual framework of women's transformative leadership and good governance, the Conference generated a list of critical actions to promote women's leadership and catalysed the creation of a formal network of women parliamentarians from countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

36. Leveraging collaboration from UNICEF and UNFPA, UNIFEM supported initiatives to make census exercises in South Asia more gender-sensitive and user-friendly. In India and Nepal, UNIFEM promoted media workshops and trainings to sensitize personnel collecting data for the 2001 census. The projects drew the national accounting system's attention to women's work and special needs, allowing women to be more fairly represented in development planning and resource allocation.

4. Supporting applied gender analysis of government budgets to increase accountability

37. Economic governance gained greater prominence within UNIFEM's governance portfolio last year. Gender budget initiatives currently under way in southern Africa, India, Chile, the Andean region, Nicaragua, Mexico, Fiji, and Brazil are bringing together diverse constituencies to examine how Governments allocate resources for women. Building on lessons learned from pilot initiatives on gender budgeting in southern Africa, UNIFEM is expanding its technical assistance to countries interested in using gender analysis of national budgets as a tool to strengthen the commitments that Governments made to women through CEDAW and recent United Nations world conferences. With the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Development Research Centre as key partners — and with seed financial support from Belgium and Italy, and the collaboration of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Nordic Council of Ministries — UNIFEM is launching a global initiative to build capacity in gender budgeting worldwide.

D. Promoting women's human rights and eliminating violence against women

38. UNIFEM supports women's need to understand and advocate for their human rights through innovative initiatives and programmes in the following four areas: eliminating violence against women and girls by investing in prevention, protection and advocacy strategies; strengthening the effective implementation and use of CEDAW; enhancing an understanding on the part of Governments, advocates and United Nations partners of the intersection between human rights, gender and HIV/AIDS, so as to strengthen responses to the pandemic; and promoting the integration of gender perspectives into mainstream human rights machinery and organizations.

1. Eliminating violence against women and girls by investing in prevention, protection and advocacy strategies

39. UNIFEM works to eliminate violence against women by supporting local, national, regional and global awareness-raising, capacity-building, documentation, and advocacy strategies. In 2000, UNIFEM's Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women — the only United Nations global grant-making mechanism of its kind — continued to serve as a centre of learning and support for initiatives aimed at ending gender-based violence. In 2000, demand for increased support reached an all time high: requests totalled more than $12 million.

40. Since it began in 1997, the Trust Fund has granted more than $4 million to 105 projects in 65 countries. Seventeen new Trust Fund projects were funded last year, on a variety of issues, including educating the public and sensitizing law enforcement agents about domestic violence laws in the United Republic of Tanzania, addressing the problem of so called "honour" killings in Jordan, building local capacity to protect women from trafficking and domestic violence in Moldova, and training human rights lawyers on domestic violence issues in Peru.

41. In addition to building Trust Fund support, UNIFEM strengthened its partnerships to stimulate and strengthen implementation of policy and legal reform. Last year, a joint collaboration between UNIFEM and the Indonesian Government resulted in a national plan of action to eliminate violence against women.

42. Transforming government policy and societal behavioural changes regarding violence against women depends upon broad-based public awareness. UNIFEM's support for media campaigns, multi-media projects, publications, and national conferences is stimulating shifts in public attitudes and effecting lasting change. In response to sustained media coverage generated by non-governmental organizations and UNIFEM, the country's first domestic violence bill was introduced in Kenyan Parliament. Efforts in South Asia led to an unprecedented regional commitment to address the trafficking of women by raising the issue at a regional ministerial meeting held in September 2000. In the Andean region, campaigns to end violence against women focused on training indigenous and farming women and sensitizing lawyers and justice administrators to the ramifications of violence, including legal violations of women's human rights. The campaigns helped initiate and strengthen laws to protect women in the Andean region, and in Bolivia and Venezuela the campaigns helped to promote legislation for laws to address gender-based violence.

2. Strengthening the effective implementation and use of CEDAW

43. UNIFEM's emphasis on rights-based programming has intensified its work with Governments, the judiciary, members of the media, and women's groups. In addition to enhancing implementation of the Convention at the national level, UNIFEM is mainstreaming CEDAW into its other programming areas, such as gender budgets and HIV/AIDS.

44. UNIFEM's support to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations and government to use CEDAW as the basis for bringing about equality bore fruit in 2000. In Mexico, a national workshop for legislators led to changes in the civil code and the signing of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. Governmental representatives who attended a CEDAW workshop in Malawi committed themselves to review national laws. Creating unprecedented dialogues in India, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, UNIFEM brought governmental representatives together with women's rights advocates and members of the CEDAW Committee as a way of accelerating implementation plans and monitoring the convention.

45. UNIFEM and the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia/Pacific convened their fourth

annual CEDAW training workshop in January 2000. The workshop provided training to women advocates whose countries were reporting to the CEDAW Committee during the January and June sessions in 2000. To date, more than 70 women's human rights advocates from more than 32 countries have participated in this training/monitoring workshop to strengthen their understanding of the Convention, the CEDAW Committee's process, and the potential application of CEDAW to their national-level advocacy efforts. In 2000, UNIFEM organized a workshop in southern Sudan on women's human rights, and the Convention was translated into Somali. Participants have used such training as an opportunity to inform the Committee about the status and concerns of women in their countries.

3. Enhancing the understanding of Governments, advocates and United Nations partners of the intersection between human rights, gender and HIV/AIDS

46. Guided by a human rights approach, UNIFEM is supporting diverse strategies to make women's interests and contributions central to HIV/AIDS programmes and strategies. UNIFEM is piloting innovative community-based initiatives, providing policy advice at the national level, and supporting advocacy for women in global policy-making related to HIV/AIDS.

47. Because HIV/AIDS is an issue of women's empowerment and rights, UNIFEM continues to expand its efforts to leverage greater support for women by creating new partnerships between Governments, civil society, women's groups and the private sector. In so doing, its partnerships with UNAIDS, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies have been strengthened. UNIFEM's pilot projects in six countries — Gender-focused responses to the challenges of the HIV and AIDS epidemic — were expanded in 2000 to reach four additional countries (China, Kenya, Nigeria and Swaziland), with partial funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and from UNAIDS.

48. UNIFEM helps women's organizations and non-governmental organizations working on HIV/AIDS to expand their advocacy work to include the gender dimensions of the epidemic. In addition, because addressing policy is extremely important for sustainability at the local level, UNIFEM advises policy makers on engendering their strategies and plans and identifying mechanisms for implementing CEDAW. In Harare, UNIFEM convened non-governmental organizations and governmental and United Nations agencies to analyse each article of CEDAW for use in reporting cases of discrimination against HIV-positive women. Facilitated by the CEDAW member from the United Republic of Tanzania, the results will be used in expanding the CEDAW Committee's commitment to addressing HIV/AIDS.

49. Women's non-governmental organizations, national AIDS councils, the media and United Nations agencies all need to understand the gender and human rights dimensions of the epidemic. In response, UNIFEM developed training materials and approaches, such as its *Gender, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS* manual. Produced in French, Spanish and English, the manual has been adapted for use in a course at a university in Mexico.

4. Promoting gender in mainstream human rights machinery and organizations

50. In preparation for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, UNIFEM, at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, produced a background paper highlighting critical issues of concern for women. In Chile, the Government relied on the report to shape its national position as host Government to the upcoming preparatory Latin American regional meeting. The report served as background to an expert group meeting convened in Croatia by the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UNIFEM, and also to the preparations for the session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2001.

II. Supporting stronger action on gender in the United Nations system

51. New agreements, stronger coordination mechanisms, increased field staff, and concrete results marked UNIFEM's efforts to be a catalyst and innovator on gender equality within the United Nations system in 2000. The emphasis placed in the system on

greater inter-agency coordination has supported increased attention to gender and a greater willingness to collaborate with UNIFEM.

52. Preparations for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, (Beijing+5) provided a unique opportunity for United Nations agencies to work collaboratively on gender issues. UNIFEM participated actively in many of the joint agency events and projects.

A. New agreements

53. Developing memoranda of understanding and other concrete agreements with sister agencies is one way of facilitating stronger collaboration on gender. In April 2000, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board approved an agreement by which UNIFEM can execute UNDP projects that can benefit from UNIFEM's specific areas of knowledge and expertise. Concrete requests from UNDP to UNIFEM to execute projects have already emerged in Somalia, India and three other countries.

54. In 2000, UNIFEM also developed a memorandum of understanding with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and UNDP to strengthen the efforts of these agencies to bridge the gender digital divide. The organizations collaborated on panel presentations on gender and ICTs at Beijing+5 and are exploring joint field-based activities in South-East Asia.

55. UNFPA is a partner with UNIFEM in numerous initiatives at the country level and globally. UNFPA's collaboration on *Progress of the World's Women 2000* and on UNIFEM's global pilot projects on gender and HIV/AIDS has been essential.

B. Mainstreaming gender in United Nations coordination mechanisms

56. Almost four years have passed since the Secretary-General called for greater field-level coordination among United Nations agencies and introduced new mechanisms to enhance it. Primary among them are common country assessments (CCAs) and the United Nations development assistance frameworks (UNDAF), which together create a knowledge base and planning framework for United Nations-system initiatives at the national level. UNIFEM is providing gender expertise to assist with developing and assessing these coordination mechanisms and is using its catalytic mandate in the United Nations country team to advocate for and support achieving concrete results towards gender equality and women's rights.

57. In 2000, the United Nations launched a training initiative to support United Nations country teams in developing CCAs and UNDAFs. In order to increase its gender-responsiveness, three UNIFEM gender advisers — from Guatemala, Morocco and Rwanda — were trained as facilitators and are providing their services for up to four weeks per year in workshops in different regions. UNIFEM advocated for the inclusion of this dimension and was able to provide input into the revisions of the training programme.

58. While field-level activity is crucial, it is also important to intervene in CCAs and UNDAFs at the global level. UNIFEM chairs a task force on gender mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF process for the Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality, with UNFPA, UNICEF, the Department for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, the Office of the United Nations Development Group, and UNDP. During 2000 as well, UNIFEM completed its work as chair of the Inter-Agency Meeting Task Force on Good Practices in Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and — with UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and HABITAT — launched an electronic database of good practices with examples from nearly 25 United Nations agencies.

C. Expanding access to gender expertise at the field level

59. In 2000, UNIFEM expanded and strengthened its field network. With the addition of regional programme directors in Nigeria and Romania, UNIFEM has 13 subregional offices. It continues to support, with UNDP and United Nations Volunteers (UNV), gender specialists in 13 countries. UNIFEM is backstopping gender population and development advisers as part of UNFPA's country support teams in six countries. UNIFEM's gender advisers to the resident coordinator system in five countries are proving to be key in making the CCA and UNDAF processes more inclusive of gender concerns.

D. Beijing+5

60. The five-year assessment of the impact of the Fourth World Conference On Women, was a week-long special session of the General Assembly entitled, "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century", or, informally, "Beijing+5".

61. UNIFEM supported broad-based global participation by women's organizations in the session. In Africa, UNIFEM assisted Governments in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone to produce national reports and studies. In Zimbabwe and Ghana it helped fund non-governmental organizations to research and craft alternative reports and information sources.

62. In Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS), UNIFEM supported partnerships between Governments and non-governmental organizations and young women's involvement in the organizing process. Declarations drafted by CEE/CIS participants at UNIFEM-sponsored preparatory workshops were incorporated into the final document at the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (January, 2000).

63. UNIFEM collaborated closely with Governments and non-governmental organizations in the Asia/Pacific region. In Western Asia it helped to organize the Arab Regional NGO Meeting in Preparation for Beijing + 5 (Amman, Jordan, February 2000) and launched the *Arab Regional NGO Alternative Report*. UNIFEM chaired a United Nations theme group on gender in China and co-organized a symposium on the preparations for Beijing+5 with the Chinese Women's Research Society.

64. In Chile an estimated 15,000 Chilean women attended 13 UNIFEM-supported regional and national seminars. Two reports tracking the status of the implementation of the Programme for Action in Chile were written and published. The meetings laid the groundwork for developing a second national equal opportunities plan in Chile.

65. UNIFEM is working to ensure that the global interest generated by Beijing+5 yields concrete and sustainable benefits for women. In Africa, UNIFEM organized non-governmental organization training sessions after Beijing+5 to enable women to work with Governments on stronger accountability mechanisms. In the Caribbean, UNIFEM is carrying out a three-year project to generate social and gender indicators for monitoring the Programme for Action. In September 2000 UNIFEM organized a regional biennial review meeting in South Asia which enabled governmental and non-governmental organization representatives collectively to identify follow-up priority areas. As a result, the South Asian Governments agreed to hold an annual subregional monitoring meeting to review implementation of the Programme for Action.

III. UNIFEM as a knowledge provider on gender equality and women's human rights

66. UNIFEM engages in diverse and creative strategies to share its knowledge and experiences in support of gender equality and women's rights worldwide. The launch, in 2000, of *Progress of the World's Women* offered a concrete example of how UNIFEM synthesizes its learning and analysis to support improved programming by all of its key partners: Governments, United Nations agencies and civil society partners. During the past year, UNIFEM has engaged in numerous initiatives to stimulate learning in support of future programming, to link knowledge to action, and to mainstream understanding of gender through the mass media.

A. Progress of the World's Women 2000

67. UNIFEM's new biennial report, *Progress of the World's Women 2000* stands alongside other United Nations publications, including *Human Development Report* (UNDP), *The State of the World's Children* (UNICEF), and *The State of World Population* (UNFPA).

68. UNIFEM launched its report in June 2000 at the special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5). Using a combination of statistical indicators, analyses, and personal testimonies, *Progress of the World's Women 2000* documents the advances many nations have made on behalf of women while examining remaining social, economic, political and technological gender gaps. It addresses the economic dimensions of women's progress in the context of globalization from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s.

69. *Progress of the World's Women 2000* illustrates how the global agreements of the past decade have targeted gender equality in education and in measures to address health issues such as maternal mortality but has marginalized women's economic rights and empowerment. The report strongly recommends the adoption of a globally agreed goal specific to women's paid employment, such as raising women's share of administrative and managerial positions to at least 30 per cent by 2005, and to at least 50 per cent by 2015.

70. Regional and national launches of the publication and public meetings were held in Switzerland, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Zimbabwe, India, Thailand and China. Regional and national editions were published in South Asia and Mongolia. Local adaptations for South Africa and Mongolia have been published. An Italian non-governmental organization has secured support to translate the volume into Italian. Global non-governmental organization response to *Progress of the World's Women 2000* indicates that UNIFEM's partners have found the new data extremely useful in their advocacy efforts on behalf of women.

B. Stimulating learning to support future programming

71. During the past two years, UNIFEM has been engaging in diverse initiatives to learn from its work to end gender-based violence. UNIFEM undertook an assessment of its "end violence" electronic working group, which "met" from October 1998 through March 2000 and engaged more than 2,500 advocates from around the world in a daily sharing of strategies to end gender-based violence. Assessments were also undertaken to generate learning from the inter-agency regional campaigns to end violence against women which UNIFEM had launched in 1998 and 1999. Working with local and international experts on the assessments, UNIFEM held consultations with numerous partners to learn about the impact of campaign strategies, materials and messages and to generate feedback on priorities for follow-up. The assessment results have already helped to shape new UNIFEM media and campaign initiatives on ending violence — including the campaign launched in the CEE/CIS region at the end of 2000 — and in other thematic areas. In the short term as well, the assessments are feeding into the design of workshops on strategic communications to strengthen the capacity of grantees of UNIFEM's Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women more effectively to document and assess the impact of their advocacy initiatives.

72. Finally, the learning component of the Trust Fund in Support of Action to Eliminate Violence Against Women bore fruit in 2000 with the publication of *With An End In Sight*, offering in-depth case studies of seven UNIFEM-supported projects. It makes innovative strategies and lessons learned about ending violence against women available to thousands of groups and individuals worldwide.

C. Mainstreaming gender perspectives through mass media

73. UNIFEM is increasingly finding ways more effectively to support the development of audio-visual materials to build public awareness, knowledge, and changes in practice and political will. In South Asia, UNIFEM supported *Chameli*, a feature film dealing with trafficking in women, which won awards for best actress, best art director, and best story in the Third Nepal Motion Pictures Awards. In the Caribbean, UNIFEM has produced popular videos on CEDAW, which have been aired on television in 16 Caribbean countries and has supported CEDAW radio talk shows in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos.

74. In the Andean region, Central America, South-East Asia and globally, UNIFEM has been using partnerships with media to exponentially increase its outreach. Reaching hundreds of thousands of listeners region-wide, the radio programmes co-produced by UNIFEM with the networks of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters and the Feminist Radio Collective are ensuring that men and women understand national legislation and global conventions. In East Africa, UNIFEM supported *The Nation*, Kenya's main newspaper, in producing a women's supplement in preparation for Beijing+5.

IV. Financial management

75. The year 2000 saw a significant increase in total contributions. Against an income of $23.65 million in 1999, income for 2000 amounted to $29.41 million, up $5.9 million, or more than 20 per cent over the

previous year. Combined expenditures for the financial year ended 31 December 2000 totaled $25.39 million, up $5.8 million, or 23 per cent from 1999.

76. Nine donor Governments increased their contributions, and two Governments recommenced their contributions after several years. The total contributions from government donors in 2000 was $24.68 million. In addition, almost $3 million was received from other donors, providing a total of $27.67 million from donors. It should be noted that the continued strengthening of the United States dollar considerably affected actual income from donors pledging in their home currency. This was particularly the case for EU countries since those currencies depreciated by about 10 per cent over the United States dollar in the course of 2000. Had there been a more stable exchange rate, contribution increases would have been even more sizeable.

77. During 2000, UNIFEM continued to enter into co-financing arrangements with various donors. Actual contributions amount to $3.4 million and $4.2 million for cost sharing and sub-trust funds, respectively. This is an increase of $2.6 million, or 34 per cent, over 1999. In addition, pledges receivable in 2001 and future years based on already approved contracts amount to $4.2 million.

78. UNIFEM's strategy for increasing and diversifying its resources focuses on strengthening and expanding partnerships with bilateral donors; generating support for gender equality through development of new partnerships with multilateral agencies, and leveraging funds through strategic gender mainstreaming strategies; exploring opportunities to develop partnerships with socially responsible private-sector entities; and piloting innovative fund-raising strategies.

79. Working in an inter-agency context on a number of innovative mechanisms, UNIFEM's field offices are also increasing their ability to leverage funds from United Nations partners. Notable examples include the securing by the New Delhi office of $100,000 from UNICEF and $150,000 from UNFPA for the continuation of its project on engendering the census in South Asia. UNIFEM's Quito office leveraged $300,000 from UNDP's Japanese Women in Development Fund for a project on women's leadership and citizenship.

80. Diversification of UNIFEM's resource base remains a critical priority and one that continues to offer challenges. UNIFEM is developing a three-pronged strategy, taking into account the broader United Nations context of exploring partnerships with private-sector entities, and mindful of the debates surrounding private-sector support for United Nations activities. Recognizing that diversification requires long-term development of new partnerships around innovative activities, UNIFEM is focusing on development of partnerships to raise visibility and public awareness and to re-align of UNIFEM's national committees. A notable example was the private-sector partnership in support of a UNIFEM exhibit of women artists from around the world, at Beijing+5.